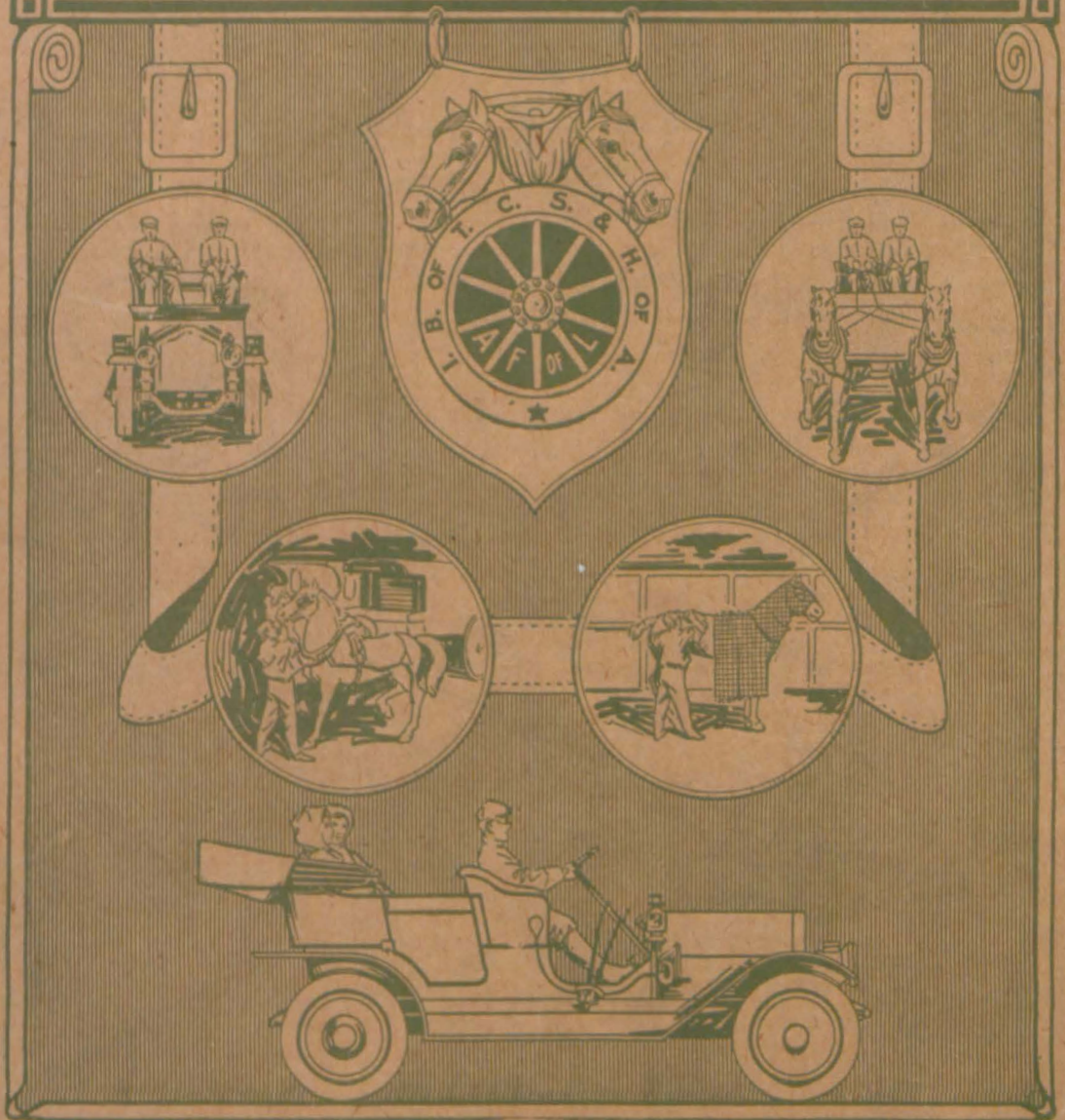


FEBRUARY, 1917

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
TEAMSTERS • CHAUFFEURS
STABLEMEN AND HELPERS
OF AMERICA



We have just received a letter from Boston, stating that our International Trustee, Nathaniel Lannan, has been elected to the office of Assistant Secretary of Local No. 25, to work in the office at a salary of \$30.00 per week.

We congratulate Brother Lannan. Every one who knows him will rejoice at the fact that he has, after many years of faithful service to his union, been rewarded. This is one instance where justice, faithful work and honesty has been appreciated. This is a new office created by the local union. As a result of the signing of their new wage scale Secretary Joseph J. Hunt, and Michael O'Donnell, business agent, will be needed on the street all the time to attend to the grievances of the union.

Those who make the greatest noise in a union, or outside of the union are not always the greatest workers. If you ever attended a convention of the American Federation of Labor you would know that those who are continually talking on the floor of the convention make the least impression. The important individuals, or the men who have the greatest knowledge of the labor movement and the responsibilities it imposes on them, only take the floor and talk when some important question is under discussion, and they are usually listened to.

Of course, there are none of us who are perfect. If we were perfect we would not have any fighting qualities; in fact, we would be imperfect, but the officership of our unions is as near perfect as the same number of men in any condition or walk of life. The trouble with the rank and file is that they see all the little wrong things in an individual, or in a union, but very seldom see the big things, or the good things that the individual or union is doing, because they do not want to see it. Some men think they can build up their own reputation and promote themselves in the eyes of the membership by continually finding fault and knocking. Such individuals never attain what they are looking for, and if they do they are usually confronted with the same kind of tactics that they themselves pursued.

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HUMAN DEVELOPMENT A PRIMARY NEED



ALTHOUGH there are many conflicting opinions upon preparedness there is one phase upon which all thinking citizens agree.

There ought to be assured to every boy and girl adequate opportunity for physical and mental development. This is the cornerstone of national preparedness whether for peace or war.

Undernourished men and women, with bodies poisoned by fatigue, living in conditions deadening to incentive, are a terrible handicap to a nation preparing for a supreme effort requiring endurance and resourcefulness. The emergencies of war have emphasized what was overlooked in times of peace.

English papers publish evidences of the awful legacy of her industrial exploitation. Recruits from factories, shops, habituated to grinding tasks and under conditions physically deleterious, did not have the physique and the endurance necessary to marching or field work. It is stated that battalions of Lancashire recruits had to be kept in the open air and fed properly before ready for service. After some months of open air exercise and adequate food, the uniforms issued to these recruits upon enlistment were exchanged for larger sizes.

Similar experiences have been recorded for Porto Rico, where the majority are undernourished. Those who joined the United States army and were given regular exercise, clean living quarters with regular, nourishing meals, increased in height on an average of one and a half inches and proportionately in chest and muscular expansion.

Is it not an indictment of civilization and national ideals that adequate opportunity for physical development are generally to be found only in the military? We profess to hold in high esteem the arts of peace, and yet we permit those necessary to those arts to be dwarfed and warped in minds and bodies.

Our own nation has a lesson to learn. With the vanishing of the frontier and the development of industrial centers, natural opportunities for physical exercise and open-air life disappeared. Meanwhile a change of another character has taken place in industrial organization. The sub-division of labor which makes it necessary for the workers to perform thousands of times in one day just one infinitesimal part of the whole process of production has had a tremendous influence in stunting the minds and bodies of workers; in addition to physical training, industrial education and vocational training must be a part of the general education-

al system. A definite, constructive plan for education must be worked out immediately. When a nation is fighting for its life is not the best time to consider this matter, but we ought to have a well-developed plan providing for all.

Through the public schools each boy and girl should receive physical training and should be taught physiology and the fundamentals necessary for good health. For students and for all, there should be provided by school and local government authorities opportunities for outdoor exercises and life so that every girl and boy, man and woman could take care of himself or herself in the open.

Until we are able to keep children in school longer than is now compulsory and to enforce school attendance more strictly, physical training through schools alone will be inadequate. It devolves upon the local government to afford ample opportunities for all and to see to it that all have time to avail themselves of existing agencies and facilities.

National virility and resourcefulness depend upon the physical qualities of the citizens. As an enlightened democratic nation we can not afford to restrict opportunities for physical welfare to a privileged few. This matter ought to be taken up seriously and energetically by all central bodies.—Gompers.

DANTE BARTON'S INTERVIEW WITH FATHER JOHN H. O'ROURKE, S. J.



HE sin of defrauding the worker of his wages cries out to heaven for vengeance, according to the gospel," declared the Rev. John H. O'Rourke, a Jesuit father, director of the Apostleship of Prayer, in an inter-

view given to Dante Barton of the Commission on Industrial Relations.

Preaching the Christmas sermon in the vast St. Patrick's cathedral in New York City, a day or two before he received his visitor, Father O'Rourke had commented scathingly on many phases of the treatment of the poor by the rich. He had

condemned the practices of those who profit by labor to keep the worker out of the just recompense of his toil and then throw sops of small restitution to keep the oppressed poor quiet. He had spoken of the willingness of hard employers now to compromise by arbitration since labor had grown strong enough to resist the older cruelties and injustices.

Leaning toward his visitor, the studious priest and teacher said:

"This Christmas season has been made the occasion for many bonuses by employers to employes. It has been signalized by many apparently voluntary increases in salaries and wages. But we should examine closely these bonuses and increases lest that great sin of defrauding the worker of his wages go unrebuked and even unnoticed and persist more strongly fortified than ever."

"A bonus to employe," he declared earnestly, "that is stained with the blood and tears of women and children and underpaid, overworked and, many times, mangled men, is not even charity. Such a bonus at its best is but a small tithe of restitution. At its worst it is a calculated, shrewd business investment, designed to keep workers content with low wages; designed to content them with dependence upon others instead of requiring that which is theirs—a just share of the profits to which they have a right."

Father O'Rourke's kindly face showed no sign of hate as he spoke of these evils of modern industry, as he talked intently of the duty to expose the sins of hypocrisy and cruelty, the insatiable greed of predatory wealth and the dreadful and awful sufferings of the poor. An occasional smile of understanding and pity lighted the face over the black robe.

"We must examine these increases in pay to see whether they

do not mean only bribes either to keep men from munitions factories where the pay is high, or temporarily to make them forget the old wage conditions which will be theirs when the competition and prosperity incident upon the war shall have ceased. We must consider such gifts in almost the same class as the libraries and nominally philanthropic schools and institutions built mainly from moneys which belong to the puddlers of Pittsburgh and other underpaid workers like them."

The interviewer expressed his belief in the great influence for good of the dissemination of the ideas from altars and pulpits such as had been preached in St. Patrick's on Christmas Day. The opinion was expressed that what the priest had said to the most modern congregation in a large, modern cathedral had in it the soul of St. Augustine's saying: "Thou gavest bread to the poor, but better were it that none hungered and thou hadst none to give him."

Quickly the answer came as Father O'Rourke leaned forward:

"The logical, natural place and sympathy of the priest are with the poor. Read the letter of Leo XIII on the condition of the workingmen. There you have the attitude of our church on the relation of the employer and employe. No man can condemn more strongly the injustice and cruelty of capitalism and the greed for money than does the holy father in that immortal document. Sometimes the attitude of the Catholic priest is supposed to be antagonistic to the workingman. This impression arises from the clergy's opposition to Socialism. We need not fear Socialism—Socialism is the child of the cruelties of capitalism. If we can ameliorate and cure these, Socialism will die a natural death.

"The priests are anti-socialist, but they are not opposed to the

laboring man and his struggle for his rights against injustice. They are heart and soul with the laborer for better conditions and better wages, better housing, better provision for old age, for a fuller and juster distribution of the profits of their own toil. Why should the priest not take this attitude? It is the attitude of the holy see, as expressed by Leo XIII. Most of the priests have sprung from the poor. The vast bulk of our Catholic people are poor. Christ, our Master and our Model, was poor, loved the poor, lived with and worked for the poor. Surely the priest can do no less. We priests believe that the solution of the economic troubles is contained in the gospel of Christ. Put this teaching into men's hearts and you will have a united people which will be invincible."

After a pause the thoughtful priest continued:

"You can't solve this question altogether by legislation. Money in the past has bought up and will in the future buy up legislation. You can't solve this question by shooting strikers down in the streets or burning them to death at Ludlow. If you do so, you will have silence, but it is the silence of despotism and death and not the peace which should reign over a free people. There is only one adequate solution and that is the practice of the gospel teaching, but when vast sums of money have been used to build up and encourage foundations which put a premium upon the rejection of religion and the gospel of Christ, as has been done, the capitalists are cutting away the ground from under their own feet, they are tearing down the very bulwark of their safety."

Alluding to the recent railroad legislation Father O'Rourke smiled and said: "There was a universal outcry by the subsidized press (you don't doubt it is subsidized) against what they called a 'hold-up' of the

President and Congress for the speedy legislation. Think of the hypocrisy of it! What is the difference between a 'hold-up' of Congress by intimidation or bribery? What is the difference between Congress yielding to the fear of a strike or to the glitter of gold? How many measures favorable to capitalists, how many franchises, how much control of the public resources that belong to the people have been obtained from Washington by gold and the papers were not scandalized? Of the two I would prefer the workingman making his demands in the open than to have the invisible government skulking about in the lobbies at Washington to prostitute the representatives of the nation."

"Ah! the poor," said Father O'Rourke with a look of pity in his eyes. "Who are the poor? Surely not the paupers on the island or the inmates of our charity houses. These men are not poor. They are provided for, their future is assured. They will have bed and board from the State until they sink into their graves. The poor are the underpaid street car workers, the hundreds of thousands of half-deaf mill operatives, deafened by the clack of the loom, the men who work twelve hours a day seven days a week for corporations on scarcely a living wage; these and millions of others are the poor. These who are trying desperately to live respectably and provide a sustenance and a roof for their wives and children. These are the poor, and God only knows at times how they suffer."

"The greatest enemies to the country today are the corporations who are working their men for small wages twelve hours a day, seven days a week. No nation can long survive if it stamps out and kills in the hearts of its people the religious instinct, and in the hearts of men who work seven days a

week, twelve hours a day there is no time and still less inclination for the practice of any religious principle. It is stamped out of their own lives and they are too tired and weary and broken by toil to see that it is inculcated in the lives of their wives and children.

"The hardness of it all," Father O'Rourke concluded, "the hardness of this sin of defrauding the worker of his rightful wages! Against this sin, every legitimate force should be brought to bear, to work unceasingly."

SENATOR BORAH ON LABOR CONDITIONS



DO not see just how those who are advocating the Canadian arbitration law for this country, or any law for effective compulsory investigation and arbitration, are going to get by certain well-established legal principles," he says.

There seems to be an impression that the whole thing is made easy because we are to deal with a body of men and not a single individual. In other words, it is supposed, apparently, that while you can not compel an individual to work or to punish him because he quits work you can compel a body of men acting collectively or as a union to work or punish them because they agree to quit work. To say that the concerted action of powerful bodies of men shall not be permitted to stop the industrial process of the nation does not meet the situation at all. It is true, however, that powerful bodies of men acting together may quit work and may decline to accept employment and if their quitting work has the effect of stopping the operation of trains it is nevertheless their right to quit.

A man's constitutional right, either individually or collectively, can not be measured by the amount of injury which the exercise of his constitutional right may do to society.

In my judgment employes have

a right either singly or collectively to quit work because they are dissatisfied with their wages or for any other reason which has to do with their welfare as to sanitary conditions, etc., as workingmen. It is just as much an invasion of a man's personal liberty and just as much in contravention of his constitutional right to compel him to remain in the service of another when he is a member or acting with his union as it would be to compel him to do so if he were acting individually.

It has been decided a number of times, and in one instance by no less an authority than Justice Harlan, late associate justice of the supreme court of the United States, that a labor union has a right to confer with reference to their wages and to determine as a matter of fact whether they are satisfied, and if not satisfied as a result of their conference to quit work. I am speaking now, of course, of the rights as between the employer and the employe, omitting entirely the question of interference with some one else operating the train. But as between the employer and the employe, the employe has a right either singly or collectively to quit work, in my judgment, and under the constitution of the United States he can not be deprived of that right simply because he acts collectively. Whatever one party may do alone he may do in combination with others provided they have no unlawful object in view,

but the right to quit on account of unsatisfactory wages can never be made unlawful.

If you can prevent men from acting collectively and as a union in regard to their wages, to their sanitary conditions and to questions of health, surroundings and such things, then you have, of course, destroyed collective bargaining absolutely and have found a way by which to inhibit collective action upon the part of labor and it would be the beginning of the end of union labor.

Collective bargaining and collective action both upon the part of capital and labor are in accordance with the spirit and principle of the age, and some other way will be found to adjust these matters than that of taking a backward step and destroying collective bargaining and collective action so long as the action is for lawful purposes.

I have never believed that compulsory arbitration was either practicable or legal under present provisions of our constitutions, both state and national.

ROBBING THE WORKINGMAN BY TAXATION



THE Association for an Equitable Income Tax, of which Register John J. Hopper of New York is president, and among whose officers are Commissioner of Immigration Frederic C. Howe, Chas. H. Ingersoll, Amos Pinchot, Edmund B. Osborne and George L. Record, is urging Congress to increase the tax rate on all incomes of over \$1,000,000 to from one-fifth to one-third of the total income and the rates on all large incomes proportionately," says Benjamin C. Marsh in a report made to the Committee on Industrial Relations. "It urges also that the tariff on sugar be promptly repealed and the duties on the necessities of life and cheaper grades of luxuries be reduced, and that the rates on incomes from investment over \$50,000 should be counted as unearned incomes.

"Congress seems inclined to disregard these first principles of democracy and to impose higher taxes on food and other necessities of the working classes. The workers of America should realize the injustice of our present system of raising revenue and demand equality,

such as urged by the Association for an Equitable Federal Income Tax. It is un-American and unjust to conscript working men for military service as long as the institution of private property based on special privilege remains.

"The growth of huge fortunes in Great Britain is an important cause of the present European war. Not all the tactful and unhappy lives of diplomats can hide this fact. Cotton manufacturers in Lancashire were making 35 per cent. and paying cruelly low wages, while the underpaid workmen were being taxed much more heavily than the recipients of the incomes due largely to the payment of inadequate wages. America is in danger of following the stupid example of Great Britain.

"The report of the commissioner of internal revenue is the most astounding record of the rapid concentration of wealth in a few hands in this country. For the year ending June 30, 1914, only sixty individuals in the United States were recorded as having a net taxable income of over \$1,000,000 each and their aggregate net taxable income was \$127,000,000. For the year ending June 30, 1915, the number of net incomes of over \$1,000,000

exactly doubled to 120—and the one hundred and twenty people received at least \$200,000,000. During this year there was a marked increase also in the number of all persons receiving large incomes, as follows: Persons receiving incomes of \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 increased from sixty-nine to 122; those receiving from \$300,000 to \$400,000 increased from 147 to 354.

"In 1914, there were only 2,348 individuals who received a net taxable income of \$100,000 or more, with an approximate gross income of \$595,000,000; while in 1915 there were 3,704 such individuals with an approximate gross income of \$1,050,000,000. One-tenth of 1 per cent. of the population, including the dependents of these taxpayers, received nearly one-twentieth of the total national income. Not one of those receiving this enormous income secured it from his own exertions. All were due to some long-standing privilege or to some more recent opportunity for exorbitant profits due to the war. On the other hand the number of those receiving incomes of from three to five thousand dollars fell from 82,754 in 1914 to 69,045 in 1915.

"Prosperity has not reached materially below the top, while the high cost of living has largely offset, if not more than offset, the advantages to the working people of slight increases in their wages, or small salaries.

"It is significant that at the same time that these huge incomes are being taxed too lightly, while increasing so rapidly, the beneficiaries of privilege in the country are urging military conscription of the workers.

"If the present administration at Washington wishes to convince the people that Wall street and the insidious and pervasive powers of privilege have been driven out of the nation's capital, they must com-

pel privilege to pay its fair share of the cost of government, as urged by this association. The receivers of these swollen and increasing incomes are now trying to force this country into aggressive warfare through securing concessions, under the guise of commercial expansion.

"Such an income tax as suggested will not only distribute more equitably the cost of government, but will help us to prevent the policy of financial imperialism planned by the un-American results of privilege and monopoly—our billionaires and near billionaires.—Industrial Relations Committee.

Prepare yourself with the fundamental principles and knowledge that concerns union labor. Yes, prepare.

An Idea — A conception of thought. Do we always think?

Recognizance — Obligation you have taken. Now what's your duty?

Invigoration—Strengthens locals. It can be done.

Philanthropy—Benevolent to all. It's only good will.

Progressive—Advancing. We are advancing to humane righteousness through organization. Let's see!

If you condense the word called Label

Seems easy to grasp, so try and impress

That if you only forget the L you should still be Able.

I mean buy the union Label.

FRED C. WAHMS, Local 753.

After a man has owned a car less than a week he begins to unlearn a lot of things he knew about automobiles.

* * *

Often, about the time a man gets his conscience quiet, and he is ready to go to sleep a fool with an unmuffled exhaust roars by and spoils everything.

EDITORIAL

(By Daniel J. Tobin.)

WE have noticed recently in many places throughout the country that large institutions such as the steel trust, the American Tobacco Company and several other large, non-union concerns, have voluntarily increased the wages of their employes, and because they have done so they are getting considerable advertising, and undoubtedly the general public, which does not understand the situation, believes them to be real honest employers, brimming over with philanthropy and charitable actions and intentions. They state as their reason for advancing their employes 5 or 10 per cent. increase in wages that it is due to the high cost of living and that they feel that their employes should have a little more money for their work to meet this increase in prices. It is also stated by some of the other concerns, such as the non-union American Woolen Company, the cotton mills of Fall River and the war munitions plants, that they are increasing the wages of their employes because of the enormous profits in business they are enjoying, and they want their employes to receive their share of the profits. From this action of theirs they want the public to understand that there is no need of a union at all; that when the time comes and business warrants it, they will increase the wages of their employes and deal with them from a human standpoint. However, you, trade unionists, who know the difference, of course you realize what a genuine humbug this is and what a gigantic bluff they are trying to throw out to the public; what a false impression they are trying to ram down the throats of the American people. They are, however, successful to a certain extent in bluffing their own foolish employes. The ten thousand people working for the American Woolen Company, for instance, are teeming over with thankfulness for the increase given them at this time. The truth of the matter is this: that the wages paid by those concerns have been so low and the employers have been making so much money that they really felt ashamed of themselves, and on account of the enormous increase in the price of food stuffs, potatoes selling at \$4.00 a bushel in the New England States, and flour selling for \$12.00 a barrel, they knew that it was impossible for the working man to live under the wages they were paying, and as employes are scarce, many of the large concerns were afraid that unless they did something to better the working conditions of their men; unless they increased their wages slightly, that something was liable to happen—perhaps they would find themselves tied up, as they did once before, in some of those industries.

Now then, the difference between an increase in wages granted through the influence of a labor organization and that granted voluntarily by the employers, is that the increase, through unionism, is granted because the union has insisted that in the spirit of justice it should be granted, and that unless it was granted there would be a stoppage of work. Just recently, or within the last couple of weeks, an increase in wages has been granted to two thousand drivers of Local No. 25 and two thousand drivers, members of Local No. 85 of San Francisco. A union shop agreement has been signed for three years by both organizations and everything is lovely and the best of feeling between the em-

ployers and the union prevails. The difference between an increase obtained in this way and one that is given voluntarily, or under the appearance of charity by corporations that have been making immense profits in recent years, is, that those corporations which are non-union, labor-hating concerns, just as soon as the rush is over and business gets down to normal, or the least slackness in the industry presents itself, just so soon will these same concerns drop down the wages of their employes again. They will give as their reason that the concern has been losing money; that it is impossible to pay its dividends, and that the workers should help this industry to stand on its feet and they should be willing to make some sacrifice, and the poor, unorganized workers have to submit. Where a trade union obtains conditions for its membership, there is no chance for the employers to come in with such a lame excuse, and the workers will not stand for a reduction in wages. You can just imagine what would happen in Chicago if the employers in the milk industry, or the employers of the membership of Local No. 705, would say to either one of these unions, we are going to reduce your wages \$2.00 per week on the 1st day of May or the 1st day of November. The officers of the unions would say, "Nothing doing on that stuff," you mention that again, and we may make up our minds to ask for an increase in wages, and that would end it. This is the splendid condition that exists when workers are organized. They have the power of protecting themselves and obtaining justice, instead of accepting charity. The workers of the nation will not need charity if they are given justice, and those of you who read these lines should remember that there is a reaction coming, and many of the concerns mentioned above, who have voluntarily raised the wages of their employes in order to hold them, I would suggest that you keep an eye on them, and when this conflict in Europe ends and labor becomes plentiful and the hundreds of factories now making war munitions are closed down, you remember what I have written in this article—that there will be a reduction in wages in those unorganized plants where increases have been given. Therefore, watch your union, build it up, help it, strengthen it, and be careful about listening to individuals who are always trying to raise a disturbance. Our union has been successful so far. Keep on the road that you are now going and you may rest assured that no attempt will be made to take away from you that which you have gained through your organization.

WHILE attending a meeting of Local Union No. 25 in Faneuil hall recently, the writer was impressed with the wonderful change that has taken place within our organization in recent years. It was the largest meeting of teamsters and chauffeurs ever held in the New England district. About two thousand members of the union were present at the meeting and in all that large gathering there was not even one man who showed that he had any sign of liquor about him. None of the men present were smoking, and, although the meeting was held on Sunday and the men were at ease and at leisure, during the several hours that meeting was in session, there was not the least noise or disturbance of any kind. The hall was filled, the galleries and corridors were packed to overflowing, yet silence prevailed throughout the vast assemblage and the most respectful attention paid to the president, Mr. John M. Gillespie, during the two hours

in which he talked on the wage agreement which had just been signed by the local and its employers.

From a letter I have received from Brother Casey we understand that the same condition prevailed during the meeting of Local No. 85 of San Francisco, which was also being held for the purpose of hearing from its wage scale committee.

Eliminating, for the time being, the other splendid conditions obtained through organization, the thought that struck the writer at the time was—is there any other institution in the world that could have done as much for the drivers and chauffeurs toward making them better men in the same length of time as has been done by the labor movement?

Looking over this large assemblage while seated on the platform of Faneuil hall, and thinking what a gathering the teamsters and chauffeurs of Boston or San Francisco would have made eighteen or twenty years ago, is it any wonder that those who have helped in this great work should feel proud that they at least had done something for civilization and humanity? In that old, historic building—the Cradle of Liberty—Faneuil hall has been many notable gatherings—gatherings of politicians, gatherings of clergymen, conventions of and meetings representing every cause and every impulse, and every serious crisis that has confronted the nation since the days when the revolution prevailed in our country, yet a more orderly gathering, a more beneficial organization, a more splendid type of meeting, never was held in Faneuil hall than that which was held by Local No. 25 on the Sunday before New Year's Day in Boston. The General President initiated a class of two hundred on that date and before the meeting was opened there were reinstated perhaps two hundred and fifty or three hundred men who had not been members of the union for ten years. But, getting back to where we started—our unions today are a credit to the labor movement. For sound, common sense, fair and square dealing, sobriety and honesty, we compare favorably with any institution in the world. If those men who misjudge us, who are prejudiced against our institution could only witness such meetings as those held by Locals No. 85 in San Francisco, and the meeting held about the same time by Local No. 25 of Boston, or the meeting of any of our other unions, they would have an entirely different opinion of us and they would understand that the labor movement of the nation, or our International Union, especially, is doing more toward advancing civilization and making better citizenship than anything else that we know of in this or any other country.

THE high price of food stuff still continues to go up. The investigation started throughout the country recently for the purpose of determining the cause of the high cost of living, or if a conspiracy exists, etc., has fizzled down to nothing. In other words, it has ended as such investigations usually end. The poor people are still being robbed to such an extent that it is almost impossible to meet the daily expenses of living. There seems to be no redress. Investigations and conferences are started apparently for the purpose of trying to attract public attention at the time the mind of the public is up in the air demanding that action be taken, and then after a while those investigations die a natural death and nothing is heard from them. It

seems that it is a crying shame that when a man states that he has cornered the entire egg market and will hold those eggs at 60 cents a dozen, or will not sell them until he gets that price, it seems a cruelty that such an individual can go unpunished. However, under our present laws there is no way that a man can be compelled to sell what he owns if he does not want to sell, and it would be hard to legislate along those lines, because we have our labor to sell and we demand the right to sell it to whom we please and for what we please. A law regulating the price of other articles would perhaps be applied to common property. Yet, we have commissions that regulate the rates on railroads, etc., and why could a commission not be appointed by Congress regulating the price of food stuffs, as is being done at the present time in the European countries?

We all know that millions and millions of dollars have been made by those sharks who have cornered the food products of the country. It seems to me that a commission could be legally appointed by the government to investigate conditions and individuals and state the amount of profit that should be derived from invested capital in the necessities of life. If men are allowed to do as they please, and with their millions of dollars buy up the food stuffs of the nation, they can practically starve the population of the country, but, surely this would be murder and the law should protect the multitude against such conditions. It is all well enough to say that this same law of regulating individuals interfering with private property should also be applied to men of labor and labor organizations or the railroad employes, because they have to deal with the public, but it seems to me that that is a far-drawn conclusion. The necessities of life—the food products of the country—are, as you will all agree, very different. The very life of the nation depends upon them and no individual should be allowed to corner them to such an extent that he can hold up the price and keep it there until the poor people starve. Something should be done by Congress to prevent this. Investors are entitled to an honest return, or a reasonable profit on money invested, but they should not be allowed to rob the public, to starve the children of the nation, to cripple the manhood of the country by withholding the food products. We have it from good authority, that the packers of Chicago, have made more money this year than they have made in the past ten years combined, due to the fact that they have obtained enormous prices for the products they handle. Let us hope and pray that the Congress coming in will do something to relieve us from this terrible expense, this heavy strain, and from the uncertainty that surrounds the workers at this time when they are confronted with a situation whereby they find it almost impossible to procure the food stuffs which are necessary in order to sustain life.

I want to say to our membership once more, in order to impress it upon your minds, that there are no paid advertisements going into the Journal. We accept no paid advertisements of any kind from any employer or institution. We need the space, and we do not need the money from employers for advertising their products. Impress this on your mind, as we are continually receiving communications from local unions, or some of our members, asking us for our advertising rates, etc., because there is some friend of theirs in the district in business who desires to

advertise in the columns of our Magazine. We are big enough to get along without accepting any money from employers and our space is too valuable, and we need it all. Therefore, let this be final.

The American Federation of Labor, on two different occasions, went on record as being opposed to legislation regulating the hours of labor for working men. Its principal reason for this is because of the fact that if legislators had the power to regulate the working hours of the individual in any local industry, they would have the power not only to reduce the hours of labor but also to lengthen the hours. The labor movement will not always be satisfied with an eight-hour day, or a nine-hour or a ten-hour day. In certain cities and States where certain industries have been protected by legislation, the unions fell away after the adoption of this legislation, and after a year or two, those legislators were removed and a new bunch of legislators came in and undid what had already been done and put the hours back to where they were before, when they found that the unions had fallen away and the workers were unable to protect themselves. Too much legislation is dangerous. This statement, of course, would not apply to federal employes, because the government is an employer that has certain rights to regulate its own employes and the conditions under which they work. But even the government employes should be organized, because through organization they have more force, more power and will command more respectful attention from the heads of the government.

The Magazine or Journal for this month, for mailing, printing and publishing cost the International Union \$1,140.00. Before the war the same work cost us about \$500.00 a month. Owing to the enormous increase in the price of paper the expense of the Magazine has more than doubled. It is well that our members should again be reminded of the fact that the Magazine is mailed free each month to the home address of our members in good standing. In view of the fact that the International is spending so much money for this Magazine, which is very useful and contains considerable information each month, we request that you be sure and read it carefully and try to pay your dues promptly and see to it that your local union sends in its regular monthly per capita tax promptly so that we may be able to maintain this Magazine and also maintain our strike fund in the manner in which they should be maintained.

LOCAL unions, when writing the General Office, should write on official paper, or letter paper with some kind of a heading instead of on note paper which they procure at the department stores. A local union should also write on one side of the paper only. Local unions or the secretary of the local union should place the seal of the local on the communication. This is in accordance with the law, and so that we may understand that the communication is official. Again, we desire to advise our membership, who perhaps do not understand the

law, that it is impossible for the General President or General Secretary-Treasurer to be answering questions asked by individual members. We are not supposed to do it, and we will not do it. We would have to have one thousand stenographers in the office to answer communications or letters received from our individual membership, and any member desiring to communicate with the General Office, in order to have his communication recognized properly, should have the consent of his local and should place the name of the secretary or president of the local on said communication, as well as the seal of the local union. That is, any member outside of the president or secretary of a local or some responsible officer, such as the business agent. We have nearly seventy thousand members in our International Union and undoubtedly out of this great number there are a few extremists or radicals, who, when they take the notion in their head that something has happened in the union which is not according to their liking, must write the General Office for a decision. If any man wants a decision on any law of the organization, let him bring the matter up in his local union and have the local union instruct the proper officer to write the General Office for a decision.

I might also add that official letter paper can be procured from the General Office at a very reasonable price in blocks of one hundred sheets.

It would also help us in this office a great deal, whenever it could be done, if local unions, when writing letters to this office, would see that same is written in a plain hand so that we could read the writing without having to employ an interpreter or translator. When you have a lengthy communication to send to the office if you can have same typewritten, it would be well to have it written in this way.

All wage scales, when drawn up and a copy is sent to the General Office for approval, same should be in typewritten form, or in printed form, and two copies should always be sent—one for our files in this office and one to be approved and returned to the local union.

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No man or woman in this world ever got justice—that thing that all know is due them—unless he or she went after it. Philanthropy is separate and apart from justice—as far as the moon is from the earth, and infinitely farther. The workers recognized this many years ago, and the American Federation of Labor is the result. It is beyond the power of man to imagine that there would have been any organization of the workers if the workers had always received fair treatment. Industrial conditions have been such that a few men have been able to secure control of a larger share of this world's goods than they are entitled to, and this has been followed by dissatisfaction of those who pro-

duce these goods. This dissatisfaction has crystalized into what are called labor unions. With this crystalization have come many forms of effort to correct the abuse—an abuse that is vital to the producers—that spells absolute life or death to them. The present-day labor union has been and is the result of nothing but oppression and unfairness on the part of the employer of labor. Lesser oppression will mean lesser unions, and greater oppression will mean greater unions. This is simply a law of nature, and those who do not understand it or who do not recognize it will inevitably have to learn the truth of it in the stern school of experience.—Tacoma Labor Advocate.

CORRESPONDENCE



SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—As you have not heard from Local 278 in some time and as our election of officers is over and as I find myself among the unlucky candidates, thought I would take this last opportunity to give you some news from this locality. Am very glad to say that Local No. 85 came to a satisfactory agreement with the employers and a serious strike was avoided. Material Teamsters' Local No. 216 has also signed up a new agreement carrying with it a generous increase in wages. The same can be said of Local No. 226 and Local No. 256. We also beg to call to the attention of all locals that one J. Hillman, who has been a member of this local, is a professional detective and should he apply for membership in any other local he should be treated accordingly. Wishing the entire membership a prosperous new year, I am,

Yours fraternally,

E. T. PREUSS,

Retiring Secretary, Local 278, Fin.
Sec'y, Joint Council No. 7.

CHICAGO, ILL.

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—You will, no doubt, be surprised to hear from Local No. 739. I desire to say that our wage scale was presented, and, with slight changes, accepted, signed and sealed, to remain in effect for a period of two years and eight months, with an increase of twenty-five cents per day, making dump wagon drivers \$2.80 per day; time and one-half for all overtime, holidays and Sundays and free

transportation. Wreck wagon drivers \$3.00 per day and time and one-half for all overtime, holidays and Sundays.

We held our election of officers on the first Monday in December. All of the present officers were elected unanimously—Dennis L. Dillon, president; Matt. Cox, secretary, and Con Gallahan, recording secretary.

On December 18, 1916, we had a little smoker and entertainment and had a very nice time. Present at the entertainment were Brother Fitchie, from the milk wagon drivers, Brother Clay from the laundry drivers, President Gorman from the laundry drivers and members from Local No. 705. Featuring in the entertainment was the piano playing of Mr. McGinnis, the violin playing of Mr. Kelly, the singing of Brother Rice, member of Local No. 739; also the singing of Dannie Dillon, son of President Dillon of Local No. 739. President Dillon, Secretary Cox, President Gorman, Secretary Clay and Brother W. Dillon danced a five-hand reel which proved a great amusement to those present to see how lively they danced.

Hoping to see this letter in the Magazine, as I think it will be an encouragement to other unions, I am,

Fraternally yours,

DENNIS L. DILLON,
President L. U. No. 739.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—Local No. 611 is about to close its first year as a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and I

am real glad to say it has been the most prosperous year we have ever had since organizing some eight years ago. Upon our affiliation with the teamsters we only had about a 15 per cent. organization; today, I am proud to say, we have 100 per cent. All of the salesmen of the wholesale pie and bread industries of St. Louis are enrolled under our banner, and we have obtained an increase in salary, better understanding with our employers and better working conditions. We are getting down to the cardinal principle of organization—brotherly love. In the old days in our city the bread salesman's motto seemed to be, "Do the other fellow before he does you." Today things have changed. We have quit knocking the other fellow and the goods he is selling and have taken for our motto, if a man holds a paid-up card of Local No. 611 he is a brother, and if we can not say anything good about him we think of the old saying: "Silence is golden."

One more point and I will close: I am sorry to have to say it, but in my visits to different locals of our Brotherhood I notice so many who pay very little attention to the Union Label. The non-union tobacco dealers have always bragged they sell most of their goods to men who hold union cards. Brothers, let us ever remember that every time we accept an article not bearing the label of justice we are showing ourselves as hypocrites and traitors to our own cause, so let us start the new year with this resolution: always demand and see that our families demand the union label on every article we buy. By so doing we not only help our fellow union man, but it will show us to be men who practice what we preach.

With best wishes to our International Officers for a prosperous New Year and a like wish to all union

men throughout the United States and Canada, I am,

Fraternally yours,

JOHN W. BAILEY,
Rec. Sec'y, Local No. 611.

LYNN, MASS.

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—I am writing you at this time to let you know that on the 30th day of December, 1916, I settled with the coal firms of this city on the new wage agreement, and I will say that it is the largest settlement I have ever made for the coal men at one time. All men receive \$2.00 per week increase; 5 cents per hour on overtime, making overtime 40 cents per hour. The men do not leave the barn now until 7 a. m.; Saturday afternoon off during the six months from April 15 to October 15, and are paid for the same. All run men receive 40 cents per hour and double time after 6 p. m. and for Sunday work. No man can work now unless he is a member of the union, or first secures a working card from the local. The firms have also agreed to do away with overtime and put their teams up at 5 p. m. and on Saturday no team is to leave the wharf after 5 p. m. I think you can see that it was a very good settlement. In fact, it was more than we got since 1909, put it all together.

As I wrote you before, the expressmen got all they asked for, so you see we started the year in pretty good shape.

I am sending Secretary Hughes all my reports for the year and I will be pleased if you can find time to look them over, as we have had a very good year, and I think they will please you, as they do me, and you will note that I doubled the treasury and hope that we shall be able to do the same this year. At least we shall try to do so.

Hoping this letter will find you well, and with very best wishes for a prosperous year, I am,

Fraternally yours,
WILLIAM A. NEALEY,
Secy-Treas., Local No. 42.

FOSTORIA, OHIO

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—Please have this published in our next Magazine:

That Local No. 190, International Brotherhood of Teamsters of Fostoria, has notified the International that Fred Kroetz, a former member of this local, has absconded, having stolen funds from his employer and left town. He has been expelled by Local No. 190.

Our membership throughout the country kindly take notice, and if he shows up in your district be sure to remember him.

B. H. RASEY,
Sec'y, Local No. 190.

TERRE HAUTE, IND.

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—Local No. 144, General Teamsters, held its annual smoker and banquet January 10, following the installation of the new officers.

We have made a large gain in our membership during the past year and hope to do better the coming one.

Our new by-laws, which we have just adopted, provide us with a \$50.00 death benefit at the small cost of 25 cents a month, which, we believe, is a great step forward. It might be well to state here that we have lost only four members by death in the last five years, for which we are very thankful.

All of our members are working, and, with few exceptions, are satisfied and harmony prevails among

us. The milk drivers and grocery drivers are the only crafts that have contracts terminating this year, but we do not expect any trouble as business is booming for every one. Our executive board for the new year consists of two wholesale grocery drivers, two transfer and two milk wagon drivers and one ice cream and one paint wagon driver.

With best wishes for the success of our International and assuring you that you will always find the boys of No. 144 loyal to our cause, I remain,

Fraternally yours,
HARRY WARD,
Cor. Secretary, No. 144.

BUFFALO, N. Y.

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—I am taking the liberty to write and let you know how our annual election came out. The following officers were re-elected without opposition:

President, Frank Brady; vice-president, John Doherty; secretary-treasurer, Jos. Kerbelein; recording secretary, Wm. L. Brown; trustees, D. Leneen, Chas. Morgan and one new man for three-year trustee, Brother Bouquard.

All officers were duly installed at our last regular meeting. We hope to have a more successful year this year than ever before. We increased our treasury wonderfully in 1916.

Wishing you and all the International Officers a very happy and prosperous new year, I remain,

Fraternally yours,
WM. L. BROWN, R. S., No. 49.

There are times in every garage keeper's career when he has to lubricate his conscience with alcohol so that it won't grate on his finer feelings.

Stick to the ship, no matter if the sea is rough. Always remember that a calm comes after the storm. Do not become excited because conditions look dark. Remember there is always daylight after the darkest night.

Do not lose your head because some one, perhaps a supposed friend, may say something against you. When the excitement has passed over, the victory is yours, because you have been patient. Time is the great healer of all wrongs and unjust acts.

Do your work tomorrow better than you did today. If it is possible for you to improve each day's work, the glory and satisfaction is yours, and you will undoubtedly become a success.

When a man feels in his heart that he has done no wrong; that he is trying to do right, he has doubled his strength to fight those who are attempting to destroy his character, or who are insinuating that he has only a selfish purpose in all of his actions.

The truthful, honest, sincere worker usually comes out on top. Just look over those who were the leaders in our organization at one time and ask yourselves if this statement is not true.

Official Magazine
of the
International Brotherhood
of Teamsters, Chauffeurs
Stablemen *and* Helpers
of *America*

WEAR THE EMBLEM
of
OUR ORGANIZATION

ADVERTISE THE BUTTON AND EMBLEM



THE ABOVE CUTS REPRESENT THE

Button, Cuff Button and Watch Fob

SOLD BY THE GENERAL OFFICE

THE PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Buttons	\$.25 apiece
Cuff Buttons75 a pair
Watch Charms	1.50 apiece

All orders should be sent through the Secretary of the Local Union to

THOMAS L. HUGHES, Secretary

222 East Michigan Street

Indianapolis, Indiana